

### **ABSTRACT**

Improved host I/O performance and availability of a storage array during rebuild is obtained by prioritizing I/O requests. In one embodiment, rebuild I/O requests are given priority over host I/O requests when the storage  
5 array is close to permanently losing data (for example, failure of one more particular disk in the storage array would result in data loss). Rebuild I/O requests continue to have priority over host I/O requests until the storage array is no longer close to permanently losing data, at which point host I/O requests are given priority over rebuild I/O requests.

10